GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1204
ANSWERED ON:09.02.2017
Drought Affected Areas
Karandlaje Km. Shobha

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether drought affected districts/ areas of several States including Jharkhand and Karnataka are facing drinking water crisis due to deficient monsoon and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
(b) the steps taken by the Union Government for finding solution to drinking water scarcity in these districts/areas along with the funds allocated on priority basis to these affected areas during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether representatives of the Ministry have visited many drought affected States and assessed drinking water scarcity and if so, the details thereof and the action taken based on the outcome of such visits, State/UT-wise; and
(d) the details of measures taken by the Union Government to find a permanent solution to drinking water scarcity in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) to (c) Yes madam. As per the report of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), a total of 155 districts of the country including 03 districts of Jharkhand and 05 districts of Karnataka State have received less than 75% of the long period average rainfall during the period 01.06.2016 to 30.09.2016. Accordingly, the Ministry has advised all States / UTs on 04.11.2016 for taking following immediate measures for the affected State detailed as under:-

a. Hiring of diesel generator sets, pumps
b. Hiring of water tankers for emergency water supply to affected sites subject to recoupment from future releases under calamity funds
c. Procurement of sodium hypochlorite, halogen tablets, bleaching powder for proper disinfection
d. Hiring of sufficient vehicles fitted with water treatment plants to provide onsite safe drinking water
e. Keeping adequate stock of spare parts that may be required for urgent repair and restoration works both for piped water supply schemes and hand pumps (tube wells)
f. Raising platforms of hand pumps
g. Procurement of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) water tanks for supply of drinking water in relief camps subject to recoupment from future releases under National Disaster Response Fund / State Disaster Response Fund.

After declaration of drought in their States, a memorandum is submitted by the States to the Central Government seeking assistance for drought relief which generally includes funds for drinking water also. The Central Government constitutes an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) including officials from this Ministry to visit the State for on spot assessment of drought and based on their report, the High Level Committee (HLC) in the Ministry of Home Affairs decides the quantum of assistance to be given to these States for different components including drinking water supply. Till January 2017, this Ministry has not received any direction in this regard for release of fund to drought affected State under Calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).
Under NRDWP, 25% of the funds is earmarked to States as flexi funds. State can also use this fund to tide over drought situation. Further, States can also utilize 15% of Operation & Maintenance funds available under NRDWP to meet the emergent requirement for drinking water mitigation activities in the event of drought.

(d) As a long term solution, this Ministry has directed the States to cover the rural households with piped water supply. This Ministry has prepared a Strategic Plan for providing drinking water supply in rural areas of the country for the period 2011-2022. By 2022, the goal is to cover 90% of rural households with piped water supply. To achieve this, the States have been advised to pool more funds from State plan in view of the enhanced devolution of funds under the 14th Finance Commission and to arrange external assistance or loan from borrowing agencies over and above the funding from the Ministry under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).